

talk @ Sileby

Village Newsletter

Issue 21 Spring 2008



www.sileby-village.co.uk

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Order

Welcome to the latest edition of your community magazine. We hope you enjoy reading the edition.

If you are new to the village, or an established resident and would like to see past editions then just log on to the village community web site at www.sileby-village.co.uk and select the magazine section. Here you can find all the past editions of Talk@Sileby as well as the editions of its predecessor 'Stockade'.

If you are interested in the village history then on the same web site you can find some interesting publications from a few years ago called By-Gone Sileby.

In this issue we continue a series of articles provided by the Sileby Heritage wardens, Pete and Eric. These two gentlemen are doing a fantastic job of documenting the Sileby history and they would be delighted to hear from anyone who has any information or items that would be useful to their cause.

If you would like to see articles about any topic published in future editions of Talk@Sileby then please do get in touch. We will publish anything you care to write, that would be of interest to others, or you may just have an idea that we can produce an item from.

New volunteers for delivering the three editions per year would be most welcome too.

Next Issue will be Summer 2008. Copy and advert deadline is 31st May 2008.

Copies of talk@Sileby

Copies of talk@Sileby can be obtained by post at a cost of 50p per issue which includes p&p..

Please make cheques payable to: Sileby Village Newsletter

Back issues of talk@Sileby can be viewed on the internet at www.sileby-village.co.uk

ATC SQUADRON 1181 SYSTON

Wreake Valley school (opposite playing fields at rear of college).
Meeting nights: Monday and Thursday 19.00 - 21.30. Flying, gliding, rifle target range shooting, adventure training, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. For more information telephone the Adjutant Diane Reeves on 0116 2603948 on meeting nights only.

Front Cover Picture: The new Baptist church on Cossington Road. The old church was in a bad state so the church members have raised funds to demolish the old building and have this new one built.

SILEBY & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We would like to thank everyone for all their help during the recent Remembrance collection, whether it was:

Preparing the boxes for delivery

Delivering the boxes

Standing outside shops with boxes

Your cash contributions

Collecting the money in

Counting the money

Attending Leicester City football ground

Putting all the boxes away ready for next year

We raised the grand total of

£4,507.96

A BIG THANK YOU

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If you would like to give your feedback, articles or letters these can be sent to the Editor or you can now use the internet forum at

www.sileby-village.co.uk

The advertising rates for talk@Sileby are listed below

Quarter Page £25

Half Page £45

Full Page £70

These prices are per issue

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this magazine are the views of the contributors and not necessarily the views of the talk@Sileby team

Soar Valley Leisure Centre

Soar Valley Leisure Centre is situated in Mountsorrel on the new 27 bus route. It provides sport facilities for all, including swimming, gym facilities as well as other sports activities.

The centre is open 7am till 10pm Monday to Friday, 8am till 6pm Saturday and 8am till 9pm Sunday.

SECRET GARDENS OF COSSINGTON

Village Gardens Open

**Sunday 4th & Monday 5th May
11.30 to 5.00**

Plus

**Exhibitions in Church, Vestry & School, Raffle,
Teas, Cake & Plant Stalls, Scarecrow Competition,
& Children's Activity**



Garden Passport

Adults - £3.00
Children - Free
Car parking - Free

***Proceeds in aid of church extension, refurbishment
and repairs***

For more information contact 01509 812271 or 07754 892842

Extended bus link helping passengers

A newly-extended bus route linking Loughborough and Thurmaston with surrounding villages has been launched.

The number 27 bus now travels between Loughborough's Baxter Gate and Thurmaston shopping centre.

The route serves Loughborough, Barrow on Soar, Walton to the Wolds, Seagrave and Sileby and the extended route will also go through Mountsorrel, Rothley Lodge, Syston and Thurmaston shopping centre.

The service, which is provided by Leicestershire County Council and operated by Woods Coaches, gives new links for leisure, work, shopping and education. It runs hourly from Monday to Saturday.

It is partly funded by developments at Rothley Lodge and Barrow, providing the additional bus needed to operate this extended service. Approximately 50 per cent of the service will be funded from these developer contributions over the next five years, as part of a wider range of improvements in the community.

The service will cost £167,000 a year, less the amount of bus fares collected.

Nicholas Rushton, Leicestershire County Council's Deputy Leader with responsibilities for Highways, said: "The local bus services we support now carry well over 2.5 million passengers a year. More and more people in Leicestershire are using buses, which helps to tackle road congestion, improve air quality and helps people get out and about within their communities."

The county council will be marketing the 27 service to help ensure that it is well used and so viable for the long term.

A new timetable is available by calling 0116 305 8777. They will also be available from Tourist Information Centres, Service Shops and libraries and can be requested by e-mailing: passengertransport@leics.gov.uk

They can also be downloaded from Leicestershire County Council's website: ww.leics.gov.uk/transport_downloads



Sample fares:

Loughborough to Thurmaston

£2.10 adult single, £4.00 adult return.

Seagrave to Loughborough

£2.10 adult single, £4.00 adult return.

Thurmaston to Seagrave

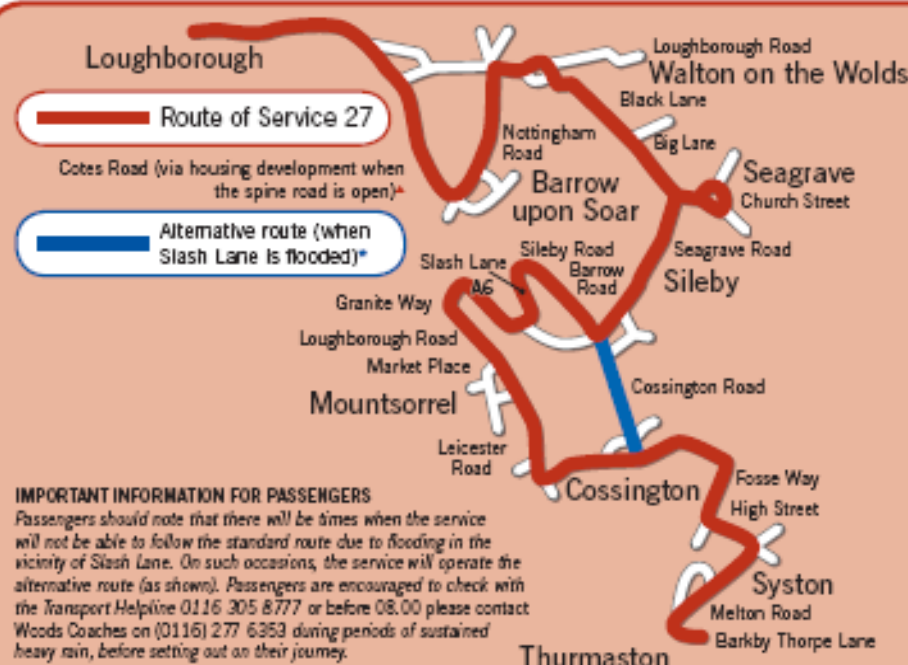
£1.70 adult single, £3.20 adult return.

Loughborough to Walton on the Wolds

£2.10 adult single, £4.00 adult return.



Child concessions approximately half fare. Older and disabled persons' travel concessions valid in accordance with current terms and conditions.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PASSENGERS

Passengers should note that there will be times when the service will not be able to follow the standard route due to flooding in the vicinity of Slash Lane. On such occasions, the service will operate the alternative route (as shown). Passengers are encouraged to check with the Transport Helpline 0116 305 8777 or before 08.00 please contact Woods Coaches on (0116) 277 6353 during periods of sustained heavy rain, before setting out on their journey.

Loughborough - High Street, Baxter Gate, Sparrow Hill, Nottingham Road, Barrow Road (B676), Cotes Road, Barrow/Soar - Cotes Road*, North Street, Nottingham Road, Loughborough Road, Walton/Wolds - Black Lane, Big Lane; Seagrave - Green Lane, King Street, Church Street, Swan Street, Big Lane, Seagrave Road; Sileby - Seagrave Road, King Street, Barrow Road, Sileby Road, Slash Lane, Sileby Road, Loughborough Road (A6, Northbound), Granite Way, Loughborough Road; Mountsorrel - Market Place, Leicester Road; Rothley Lodge - Loughborough Road, Cossington Lane, Syston Road, (A607) Syston Road, (A607) Cossington Lane, Fosse Way; Syston - High Street, Melton Road; Thurmaston - Barkby Thorpe Lane, Thurmaston Shopping Centre. (return via reverse of the above as far as Loughborough, Sparrow Hill then: Pinfold Gate, High Street)

*Alternative Route (when Slash Lane is flooded): Normal route to Sileby: Seagrave Road, King Street, High Street, Cossington Road, Cossington: Main Street, Syston Road, then normal route.

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SEAGRAVE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

From January 2008 the Seagrave WI will no longer meet on a Thursday. Meetings in future will be held on the first Monday of every month (except July) in the Seagrave Memorial Hall on Green Lane. We usually have a speaker and set out below is our programme for the year :-

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| March 31 st | - National Trust Gardens |
| April 28 th | - Discussion of WI Resolutions |
| June 2 nd | - Craft Evening |
| August 4 th | - Scattered Scruffs |
| September 1 st | - Smile Please – Say Cheese |
| October 6 th | - Hedgehog Rescue |
| November 3 rd | - Christmas Cookery |
| December 1 st | - Annual Meeting and Supper |

We are a friendly bunch of some 30 ladies, visitors are welcome at our meetings and it is hoped that more women will consider joining us. As a member the annual subscription is £27, which includes copies of the new magazine WI Life. If you would like to join us as a visitor the £2.50 charge would be reimbursed if you then decide to become a member. Please feel welcome to join us.

Contact us at secretary.seagravewi@gmail.com or phone 01509 812861

The Women's Institute offers fun and friendship and a chance to learn new skills. There is usually a speaker at the monthly meetings and time to socialise with fellow members. Other activities such as outings or crafts feature on the WI calendar depending on the interests of the members. If you are new to an area it is a wonderful way to make friends.

The Seagrave Institute is part of the Soar Valley Group made up of several other village Institutes in the area. There is also a County Federation of all the Institutes in Leicestershire. Events organised by the Group and County Federation include skittles, scrabble and bridge matches; walks; art, craft leisure & cookery activities; matters associated with health, science & public affairs; bi-annual meetings with speakers and outings. There are opportunities for members to take residential courses at Denman College on a wide range of subjects including crafts, arts, music, sports, cookery etc..

YOUR LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust was set up on 1 October 2006 when the four former PCTs (Charnwood and North Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, Rutland and Harborough and South Leicestershire) were merged.

Serving a population of 660,000, the PCT's role is to ensure that high quality, effective and appropriate health services are available for the people of Leicestershire County and Rutland. The PCT also works with partner agencies to improve the health of local people.

The PCT is currently carrying out a review of community health services to ensure that

- Patients get the most appropriate treatment, safely, in the most cost-effective way, at home or as close to home as possible
- Community health services in Leicestershire County and Rutland are easy to access, are offered to everyone on an equitable basis and are fit for the next 15 to 20 years

We provide value for money

We regularly publish bulletins to keep the public informed of progress on this review.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the Primary Care Trust:

- Visit our website www.lcrpct.nhs.uk
- Contact Qasim Chowdary, Engagement and Involvement Officer, on 0116 295 7626 or email qasim.chowdary@lcrpct.nhs.uk

Members of the public are welcome to come along to our Trust Board meetings which are held regularly. Details can be found on the Trust Board section of our website or by contacting Michele Morton, Trust Board Secretary on 0116 295 7518 or email michele.morton@lcrpct.nhs.uk

SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL

41 High Street, Sileby – 01509 813075

Email address clerk@silebyparishcouncil.org.uk

SILEBY COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre has a large main hall with stage, a sports hall, bar and other rooms available for hire at competitive rates. Please contact the Parish Office on 01509 813075 or visit our website www.silebyparishcouncil.org.uk to make a booking.

PROPOSED SPORTS PAVILION – SILEBY MEMORIAL PARK

The Plans for the proposed sports pavilion can be viewed at www.charnwood.gov.uk Environment & Planning – Planning Applications then to Charnwood Planning Explorer – Quick Search – Specific Application P06/3609/2. Grant application has now been submitted to the Football Foundation and we are presently awaiting a response.

DOG FOULING – SILEBY MEMORIAL PARK

Sileby Parish Council is hoping to elevate the dog fouling problems within the Memorial Park, by implementing a ‘Dogs on Leads Policy’.

SILEBY CEMETERY RECORDS

Sileby Cemetery Records can now be viewed on line through the Parish Council website www.silebyparishcouncil.org.uk. Many thanks to Mr Lionel Blower for his time and commitment to this project.

STONEMWORK AND LIGHTS TO FRONT OF COMMUNITY CENTRE

Repairs have now been carried out and completed on the stonework to the front of the Community Centre - a grant was obtained for this work. New external lights are to be fitted in the near future.

CCTV

Sileby Parish Council is proposing to install CCTV in various locations throughout the village.

RETIREMENT OF PARISH CLERK AND NEW APPOINTMENTS

We would like to wish Mrs B Burton a long and happy retirement, after 25 years of serving Sileby Village. Mrs G Smith has been appointed as Clerk to Sileby Parish Council with Mrs L Newby as Administrative Assistant.

**COST OF VANDALISM/ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON AREAS
UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL
FROM NOVEMBER 07 TO FEBRUARY 08**

Damage to litter bin in the Memorial Park	£1175.32
Vandalism and Anti Social Behaviour Costs	£ 890.00
TOTAL COSTS	£2,065.32

PARISH COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Mr P J Astill	01509 812263
Councillor Mrs S Butler	01509 813145
Councillor Mr P Collingswood	01509 816501
Councillor Mrs B A Crick	01509 813335
Councillor Mrs J Harris	01509 813611
Councillor Mrs F Hughes	01509 815173
Councillor Mrs S King	01509 812597
Councillor Mr W King	01509 812597
Councillor Mr K Jones	01509 812982
Councillor Mr R Kinton	01509 812759
Councillor Mrs K Machin	01509 814215
Councillor Mr F Mear	01509 815701
Councillor Mr A Shepherdson	01509 813451
Councillor Mrs P Staples	01509 813579

We would like to welcome our new co-opted Councillor Mr Wise

Officers

Mrs G Smith	Clerk
Mrs L Newby	Administrative Assistant
01509 813075	Office Hours 10.00am – 12 noon Monday – Friday

SILEBY PARISH COUNCIL POLICY

It is the Policy of Sileby Parish Council that no action is taken when correspondence or information is received anonymously.



A.G. & D. RICHARDS

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SILEBY PARISH PLAN

ONE YEAR ON

It is now one year since the first meeting to form the Sileby Parish Plan Group was organised by the Sileby Parish Council. There was an extremely good response at the first meeting and a Group was formed. This Group is independent from the Parish Council, but has had a lot of help from Hazel Fish from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

From the initial meeting of the Parish Plan Group of twenty villagers, there are now only nine enthusiastic villagers left.

The first and most important job was to obtain funding for the Sileby Questionnaire, of which most has come from the Parish Council and the (CPRE). Then, with a lot of help from Hazel, the Questionnaire was finally sent to all Sileby residents in November.

The Group were delighted to receive 400 questionnaires back with many people pledging help for various groups and wanting more information on how to help the Village.

Also organised during the year have been a Walkabout in the village taking photographs of the interesting aspects of Sileby. Some of these photographs were entered in the Charnwood Borough Photographic competition where one of the pictures came fourth. A painting competition was organised for the children at Highgate and Redland Schools and although very few entries were received two girls from Highgate School were judged the best paintings. The Group also had a photographic display at the Victorian Market and the Prize Draw was performed by the Mayor of Charnwood. The winners were selected from those people returning their questionnaires by the end of November.

The Group are now waiting for the questionnaires to be analysed, but in the mean time are busy getting in touch with various people who showed any interest in helping. Two of the Group also visited Sunrise Poultry Farm to get the views of the migrant workers of Sileby.

The next stage for the Group is to produce a Visual Design Statement (VDS), which shows the history of Sileby and the way the villagers would like it to be in the future. A special event will be held in April to show the results of the questionnaires and how the Group is progressing with the VDS.

Christine Thompson for the Sileby Parish Plan Group

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What you need to do.

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Call us on Sileby 01509 814182 and ask for Ashley.

Sileby Tennis Club 2008

Last year Sileby Tennis Club enjoyed their 80th birthday celebrations with many events including Strawberry and Cream Tournaments and an all day Bar-b-Q during Finals Day. This year a full programme of events will start with a FREE Family Open Afternoon on Sunday April 6th 2008 2-4pm. Adults who join before the 7th April will be offered 6 weeks FREE coaching on a Monday evening starting on April 7th. We look forward to welcoming new junior and adult members and if you are an absolute beginner or just a little bit rusty don't be afraid to come along.

Sileby Tennis Club, which is situated off Springfield Road and signposted from the Seagrave Road, offers 4 all weather courts. This allows members to play all year round, enjoying social and competitive team tennis thus catering for a range of abilities.

The Junior Members are considered a vital part of the Club and this year we are offering junior membership at £10 per child and in addition we are arranging six one hour coaching sessions on a Monday afternoon starting April 7th 2008 for £18.

For further information please contact: Chris Graham, Chairperson Tel, 01509 816268 or Dave Thompson 01509 812993.

SILEBY LADIES BOWLING CLUB

The Green:- off Springfield Road, Sileby

Tel:- 01509 816588

The bowling club was founded in 1939 by the directors of the shoe factories. The Club has had both a lady and a gentleman member who have served as England Presidents. When the Club was first established, due to its links with the Methodist Church, no alcohol or swearing was allowed in the Club or on the green. However as years went by a bar was installed but the Club still endeavours to retain the no swearing rule!

We have a chummy evening from 6pm on a Tuesday when anyone (young or old) is welcome to come and have a go as a guest of the Club. We will provide you with woods, shoes and tuition.

The green is at the end of Springfield Road and is open from mid April (weather permitting).

Any enquiries phone Bron on 814081 or Alvyn on 812874.



Church News



Sileby Baptist Church Building News

The works to connect the waste pipes to the mains, and all the other snagging works are finished, and by the time this goes to print and lands on your mat we may well finally be settling into our new building! We have set a date for our open day, as you can see, and although the time may be subject to slight changes we anticipate being open for the general public to look around at approximately 10am till 2pm on Saturday 5 April 2008 (posters will go up nearer the time to confirm times). You are welcome to come and have a look around, ask as many questions as you like and have a drink and a biscuit with us! There will be crayons and colouring pages to keep the children busy for a while, and a selection of “before and after” photographs of the building for you to have a look at.

The building still has a long way to go to reach it's full potential. Before even considering phase two where we add on a whole new room at the back, we still need to fully kit out the rooms with relevant furniture and accessories (chairs, toys, youth equipment, etc). We also need to fit a lift to enable wheelchair access throughout the building. We will be continuing our fundraising efforts for the foreseeable future and look forward to meeting many more of you during the coming months (and even years) as we grow our church and fill our new building.

SILEBY BAPTIST CHURCH *OPEN DAY*

Saturday 5th April 2008
10am till 2pm



- * Light refreshments**
- * Colouring for children**
- * Before & After Photos**

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SILEBY HERITAGE

Pete Campbell and Eric Wheeler —Heritage Wardens

A PERSONAL VIEW

Am I the only person who's heart sinks when viewing the ongoing saga of "the Swan Street fortifications"?

For over 2 years this visually unexciting building has slowly moved on, with what reminds me of a giant pigeon loft to the rear. It dominates Swan Street. This complex must hold some sort of record. It offends from every angle.

Only my view – of course.

Pete campbell

Ps :- my apologies for not contributing the article on the brickworks as promised – I have been diverted but will try to submit this for the next issue.

MR SMITH GOES WALKING—Pete Campbell

MR SMITH'S DIARIES.

HORACE SMITH WAS BORN IN 1897 LIVING ON CEMETERY ROAD IN HIS LATER YEARS.

SUNDAY APRIL 22ND 1979

Another stay at home Sunday morning. Although fine a cold wind blowing, and cloudy sky so i decided to stay in as my cold is not better yet. However, i have not been kept at home over important matters, doing my Wednesday shopping as usual, and to Leicester on Friday to order 'Coalite' £15.95 for 5 bags.

I remember in the old days when i used to be off by 9.0'clock on Wednesday mornings to the post office, and shopping, and be back by 10'0'clock to get mother up. It was surely a lucky day for my parents when i was born, as i was to become their standby in their old age, and long before. The rest of the family were the usual sort – thinking of getting married and having families of their own. My parents suffered their greatest sorrow only 2 months before i was born, losing their son, little joe age 2 years, 11 months, so i supped sorrow with my parents milk.

As mother nature has nothing to show me today (perhaps next Sunday) i have thought of

dipping into the past. At this time 62 years ago (1917) after the battle of arras, as were out of the line for a spell. It had snowed when we went over the top on the morning of the ninth, but at this time it was warmer then than it is today.

Talking about war, here is a piece from Shakespeare that might fit in:-

Othello

Pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war!

And, o you mortal engines, whose rude throats

The immortal jove's dead clamours counterfeit,

Farewell! Othello's occupation gone!

Watching Trains

Eyes wide open. I lay for a short time. Sunday had been good. Drizzle in the morning, but sunny later. My mam had given out the usual orders; the very same every Sunday. Henry! Are you listening? No going out before church, and afterwards only in Sunday best. No games, no playing in the brook, and keep your boots clean.

I would see Billy later. We had met Saturday, and gone across the fields to 'sorrel. That was usual for us. Every Saturday for the last year we had made our way up 'sorrel hills. We played, met mates and looked across the Soar valley. Below us in the distance was Sileby church. It was quiet. The distant sounds of horses on cobbles & mens voices down at the boatyard & wharf. Barges were in great demand, moving coal & granite towards Leicester. A busy scene, although according to my dad 'not for long' ! I had heard his murmurings to mam that 'things were going to change'.

Back to reality and out of bed. I could hear people already congregating on King St. It would be very busy later. Today was Monday, no usual Monday, but a 'no school' Monday. The sun was already high in the sky as I reached the yard. Mam was there talking to neighbours of the day ahead. Dad would have been up early to gain the first light. I could hear the hand frame grumbling away in the top room.

Mam & Dad had said they would be glad when today was over. The village (they said) had endured over 2 years of disruption, fighting in the Bellringers, men living rough, and horse & carts blocking the lanes. Billy & me were enjoying it. Men with strange accents roaming the streets, it was an exciting place to live! The village had changed.

I did my chores. As soon as mams back was turned, I was off. Running passed the church I headed towards Barrow. Hopefully Billy would be at the agreed meeting place. Under the Bluebridge and up the hill, I found him. I suppose there were a couple of hundred people, sitting where possible. I reckoned it was due in 15mins. 11'20'clock was the official time of arrival. Shortly after 11.15am cheering could be heard in the distance. We pushed to the front, and were raised to the shoulders of 2 gentlemen; the best seats in the house!

Into view it came. Steam rising, rumbling, sunlight on steel. Covered in flags and banners, the guards, sitting a "top of the carriages" the object of our excitement moved quickly towards Sileby, people waving handkerchiefs from open windows.

We ran home, or probably I should say steamed up Barrow Lane, taking in turn to be driver or guard. Dad was unimpressed, still working his frame. Mam had seen it pass over King St bridge.

We missed its return later that day, but no matter. We had found a new game. Watching trains.

On Monday May 4th 1840, " the first train" passed through Sileby. Named "Leopard" it was a 'Bury' class locomotive pulling 10 carriages. It left Nottingham at appx 10.00am and arrived in Leicester at 12.00 noon. On board were the engineers Mr Vignoles and Mr Woodhouse, together with directors of the Midland Counties Railway.

William Mackenzie was the Liverpool contractor engaged to build the line between Nottingham & Leicester.

Possibly as many as 2000 navvies & 150 horses were employed.

Henry Breward & William 'Billy' Stirk remained friends for the rest of their lives.

Henry joined the Midland Railway and worked for them until his retirement. Billy followed in his dads footsteps, framework knitting until his retirement, when he became Sileby's cemetery keeper.

They are both buried in the cemetery, not far from each other.

Henry in 1905 age 76

Billy in 1906 age 74

On a recent visit to Loughborough Library I came across this article from the Nottingham/Derby and Leicester Telegraph.

For those of you who start and finish without a pause, - well done. For those who don't pause and understand the article - words fail me!

The article I think shows that papers of that Dickenson period were mainly read by the upper-class – I suspect the working man of the time (even if he could read at all) would have struggled with this.

By the way the Rev Dudley was our own Rev John Dudley (Dudley's Bridge).

Pete Campbell

POLICE REPORTS—Pete Cabmpbell

LOUGHBOROUGH, Thursday, December 28. 1838

*Before the Rev, J. Dudley, and R.G. Cresswell. G.J.D.
Butler Danvers, E. Dawson, and T. Pares, Esquires.*

“A PIG STORY”

At this “pig-killing” season of the year, we hope the following laughable and lengthy case will not be uninteresting to our readers. – George Frisby, coachman of the “Lark”, Nottingham and Leicester coach, was charged by Thomas Cooke, of Sileby, with having driven his coach over and killed a pig belonging to him. Complainant's statement, which was anything but straightforward, was intended to show that he and another person were conveying this pig in a cart from Loughborough to Sileby and that when they arrived somewhere near “Needless Inn,” it managed to leave the cart unseen by its drivers. On proceeding along the road, however, one of “grunty's” keepers fancied he saw something trotting along the road, but from the darkness of the evening, could not exactly discern what it was. This moving object, like the far-famed Fakenham Ghost, at first created some little uneasiness in the minds of its observers, but, at length, “screwing their courage to the sticking place,” they approached it, and found it to be one of the “swinish race,” little thinking, at the time, no doubt, that it was the one they had had in the cart. The vehicle being searched and its contents being found *minus*, raised the very reasonable inference in the minds of these worthies that the pig was the one they had lost: - admitted. But to proceed :- “grunty” was being driven along the road to let it have its humour, preparatory, we suppose, to being

again put into the cart, when the “Lark” coach coming towards them, and the pig being on the wrong side of the road, by some means or other got under the horses feet, and the wheels going over it brought forth its last squeak, for, on a examination of it by its driver, it was found that “the vital spark had fled.” Complainant said that the lamps of the coach were not lighted, or he should have been enabled to have avoided it, and that when he found the coach just upon him, he cried out with all his might for the coachman to pull up, which he neglected to do and the fatal consequences above described ensued. Complainant called the person who was with him as a witness to corroborate his statement, who appeared to know but little about the matter. – Defendant, in defence, put in a letter from Dr. Davidson, of Nottingham, who was a passenger at the time, containing his statement that the lamps of his coach were lighted at Quorn, some time before the “melancholy catastrophe” took place, and also his opinion that the coach was driven carefully and steadily. This letter could not, of course, be received as evidence, but it had its weight, in tending to bear out the evidence of defendant’s two witnesses, Mr. Jackson, of Quorn, and Mr. Cooper, as to the lamps being lighted at Quorn ; the latter gentleman (a passenger) also adding that he did not consider the coachman at all blameable – he being on the proper side of the road at the time, and the complainant with the pig on the wrong side. This formed the case, and from the observations of the Bench previous to their decision in the matter, it soon appeared that complainant was “in the wrong box,” the case being decidedly in defendant’s favour. On this being hinted to him by the Bench, complainant could not altogether see how it was that he was wrong, and added that Mr Dudley wished him to take out the summons. Mr Dudley, good-humouredly enough said that the complainant had made use of a silly, and, indeed, an untrue remark ; he (Mr. D) never *wished* him to take out a summons ; but one tale being always good until another was told, he felt justified, from the statements made by complainant at the time, in granting one. Indeed (Mr. D added), so far from *wishing* any one to take out a summons, he should be very glad if neither constables nor any one else would ever come to his house again for one ; as it took up a great deal of his time, and time which he could employ much more to his satisfaction. The perfect good-humour in which the rev. gentleman made these remarks, added to the chagrin of “grunty’s” master, excited still more the risible faculties of the auditory, which had been pretty well kept up throughout from the curious nature of the case. From the circumstances of the case, the Bench considered the most equitable adjudication would be to dismiss the case, dividing the costs betwixt the parties ; which was done accordingly.

Stiles are now old-style

Over 110 new gates mean easier walking on footpaths in the Soar Valley.

Well-used paths around Syston and Sileby are now much easier to use. 111 new gates have been installed, many replacing old worn out stiles as part of an improvement scheme by Leicestershire County Council.

The walk to the 'Gate Hangs Well' pub across the fields from Syston is a nicer stroll (and easier coming back after some pleasant refreshment) thanks to gates all the way. Popular paths between Wanlip and Watermead Country Park; from Syston to Queniborough, and across Cossington Meadows have also been targeted for new gates and other. Walkers have welcomed the improvements which cover the area out to Seagrave, Ratcliffe on the Wreake and Rearsby.

"The new gates are much better for anyone who struggles with steps on stiles and also make it easier for dog walkers and families with smaller children" comments Ernie White, Cabinet Lead Member for Community Services.

"We've targeted routes where gates or gaps in fences will bring real benefits and agreed the work with the local landowners" he added. The project covers 90 kilometres of paths. Across the area signposts, foot-bridges and remaining stiles have been improved and vegetation cleared. In addition there has been a repaint for the tall yellow-topped waymark posts dotted along paths to make them easier to follow. By removing barriers, enhancing accessibility and targeting specific problems, the project aims to get people to walk more, use the car less for local trips, and take local paths to nearby amenities or out into the countryside. More information about where to walk or ride is on the web at www.leics.gov.uk/paths

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SILEBY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

During the current season membership of the Society has grown but new members, whether beginners or experienced photographers, are always welcome.

The Society meets at the Village Institute, off Cossington Road at 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start on most Monday evenings apart from the months of July and August.

If you are one of those who have purchased a digital camera recently and would like to be involved, why not come along on a Monday evening, we should be pleased to see you.

Our programme is a mixture of presentations by either our own members or by visiting speakers and competitions that are judged by experienced photographers.

The culmination of the year is the Annual Exhibition, held in October, where the best of the year's work is on display to the public.

The Society was successful in its application for a grant towards a digital projector and associated equipment. This equipment has now been obtained and was in fact used for the first time at the Annual Exhibition in October last year. As a result members can now view their digital images in much the same way as they used to see their slides projected.

The programme until the end of June is as follows:-

March 31 Presentation of the best slides accepted for the North & East Midlands Photographic Federation 2008 Exhibition

April 7 'Relics and Rhododendrons, Calcutta and Darjeeling' –
Slide show by Tim Hudson

April 14 Second Quarterly Competition – judged by Mike Armstrong

April 21 'Alpine Grandeur' – Slide show by Paul Bingham

April 28 'Investigating Lincolnshire' – Slide show by Bob & Jackie Cornes

May 12 'West Africa' – Slide show by Peter Crichton

May 19 Annual General Meeting

June 2 'People and Places' – Lecture by Bill Hall DPAGB, AFIAP, BPE4*

June 9 Third Quarterly Competition – judged by Chris Baldwin

Admission to these meetings is free to residents of Sileby.

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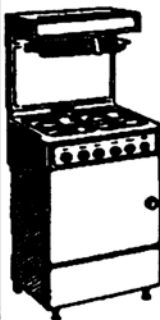
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In their crisp envelopes – which can be customised by the bride and groom for individual guests - our thoughtfully designed games will also serve as place cards, saving valuable time for the organisers and space at the table.

Weddings bring together family and friends so as each guest finds their table and takes their seat the ice will be well and truly broken as every one finds their scratch card and begins to play!

Many brides and couples want to find wedding favours that are just a little bit different, something that will make a statement and at only £1 each our LOROS Lottery celebration scratch cards are an affordable way to make a difference to a truly local charity and to give guests fond memories of the day.

The scratch card will also invite guests to take part in the LOROS Lottery every week so they can give a regular contribution towards the £6 million needed each year to provide hospice care for terminally-ill patients throughout Leicestershire and Rutland.

LOROS Lottery scratch cards are ideal for *every* occasion and celebration. So if 2008 holds a big birthday, wedding anniversary or reunion talk to us and we promise to have your guests talking and make your celebration go with a swing!

Interested? To find out more contact the Lottery Office on 0116 2318430.

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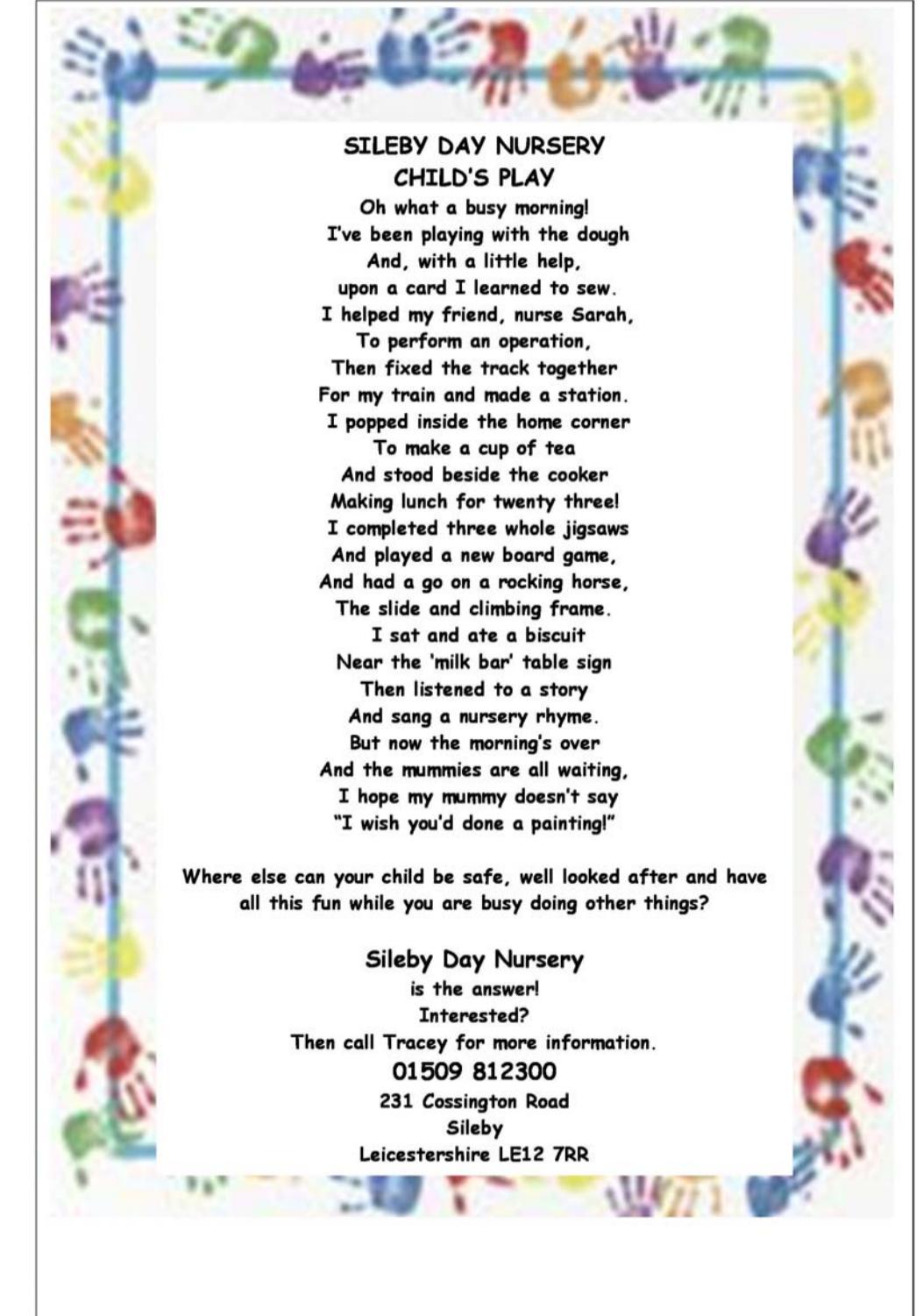
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To perform an operation,
Then fixed the track together
For my train and made a station.
I popped inside the home corner
To make a cup of tea
And stood beside the cooker
Making lunch for twenty three!
I completed three whole jigsaws
And played a new board game,
And had a go on a rocking horse,
The slide and climbing frame.
I sat and ate a biscuit
Near the 'milk bar' table sign
Then listened to a story
And sang a nursery rhyme.
But now the morning's over
And the mummies are all waiting,
I hope my mummy doesn't say
"I wish you'd done a painting!"

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